
**Thomas Jefferson to James Monroe, January 21,
1826, from Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe
Correspondence, Transcribed and Edited by Gerard W.
Gawalt, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**

Thomas Jefferson to James Monroe

Monticello Jan. 21. 26

Dear Sir

Your favor of Jan. 15 is recieved and I am entirely sensible of the kindness of the motives which suggested the caution it recommended, but I believe what I have done is the only thing I could have done with honor & conscience. Mr. Giles requested me to state a fact which he knew himself, and of which he knew me to be possessed. What use he intended to make of it I knew not nor had I a right to enquire or to indicate any suspicion that he would make an unfair one. That was his concern, not mine; and his character was sufficient to sustain the responsibility for it. I knew too that if an uncandid use should be made of it, there would be found those who would so prove it. Independent of the terms of intimate friendship on which our Mr. Giles and myself have ever lived together, the world's respect intitled him to the justice of my testimony to any truth he might call for; and how the testimony should connect me with whatever he may do or write hereafter and with his whole career, as you apprehend is not understood by me. With his personal controversies I have nothing to do I never took any part in them, or in those of any other person. Add to this that the statement I have given him on the subject of Mr. Adams is entirely honorable to him in every sentiment and fact it contains. There is not a word in it which I would wish

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to recall. It is one which Mr. Adams himself might willingly quote, did he need to quote anything. It was simply that during the continuance of the embargo Mr. Adams informed me of a combination

(without naming any one concerned in it) which had for it's object a severance of the union for a time at least. That Mr. Adams and myself, not being then in the habit of mutual consultation and confidence, I considered it as the stronger proof of the purity of his patriotism, which was able to lift him above all party passions when the safety of his country was endangered. Nor have I kept his honorable fact to myself. During the late canvas particularly, I had more

than one occasion to quote it to persons who were expressing opinions respecting him of which this was a direct corrective. I have never entertained for Mr. Adams any but sentiments of esteem and respect; and if we have not thought alike on political subjects, I yet never doubted the honesty of his opinions, of which the letter in question, if published will be an additional proof. Still I recognize your friendship in suggesting a review of it, and am glad of this, as of very other occasion of repeating to you the assurance of my constant attachment and respect Th. Jefferson

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